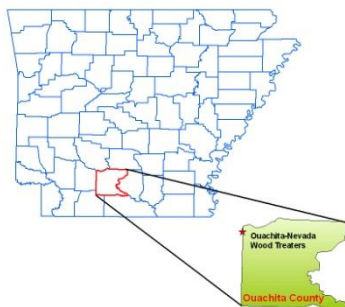


# OUACHITA-NEVADA WOOD TREATERS (OUACHITA COUNTY) ARKANSAS

**EPA REGION 6**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4**

**Contact:**  
**Gary Baumgarten**  
**214-665-6749**

**EPA ID# ARD042755231**  
**Site ID: 0604486**



**Updated: November 2012**

## Background

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The Ouachita-Nevada Wood Treaters (ONWT) Superfund Site is located in Ouachita County, Arkansas. The ONWT site is a former wood-treating facility located on approximately 5 acres of land along North Main Street in Reader, Ouachita County, Arkansas. The site is about 3 miles northwest of Bluff City, Nevada County, Arkansas, and 3 miles northwest of Chidester, Ouachita County, Arkansas.

The ONWT site was in operation from 1946 to 1987. The facility began operations as a sawmill in 1946. In 1956, the facility began treating wood using pentachlorophenol (PCP). The three impoundments at the site were originally constructed for emergency containment in case of a release. The treatment system operated by heating the oil, adding PCP, and then vacuum treating the wood. In 1972, the operator began using a chromium/copper solution. However, the chromium/copper solution failed to effectively protect the wood products and the process was abandoned. Following abandonment of chromium/copper wood treatment process, a mixture of diesel fuel and motor oil called "black oil" was used to treat the wood. This treating process also failed to adequately preserve the wood products.



On March 21, 2000, EPA began a time-critical removal action at the Site. The removal action addressed all aboveground sources of contamination, including tanks, drums, and impoundments, as well as all soil exceeding the 50 mg/kg action level for either arsenic or pentachlorophenol. Approximately 4,065 tons of contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of. The removal action was completed on June 24, 2000.

ONWT is bounded to the north and south by sparsely populated residential areas and tree farms, to the west by rural woodlands and an intermittent stream, and to the east by North Main Street and an active sawmill. The nearest resident is located approximately 150 feet southwest of the site. An estimated six people live within ½ mile of the site and the population within 1 mile of the site is estimated at 33 people. An inactive spur of the Reader Railroad runs north-south through the site. The former wood treater site included a treatment cylinder, a pressure vat, five aboveground storage tanks, three surface impoundments, a shallow dug well, one boiler, an office building, and two trailers. As the site exists today, surface drainage areas and the railroad spur are the only remaining remnants of the wood treater operations.

## Current Status

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EPA completed the first Five-Year Review for the Site in September 2011. The Five-Year Review concluded that the selected remedy for the Site is currently performing as intended. The remedy is considered protective because there is no evidence of ground water use in close proximity of the Site and thus no current exposure. The recommendations and follow-up actions identified in this Five-Year Review report should be addressed or continued for long-term remedy protectiveness of human health and the environment until Remedial Action Objectives are met.



EPA's remedial action contractor completed construction of the remedial action in September 2006. During construction, a slurry wall was installed to prevent ground water contamination from moving to off-site areas west of the site. Also, a system was installed to recover light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) that is present in the ground water.

Operation and maintenance of the LNAPL recovery system is performed by EPA's remedial action contractor. Ground water samples are collected quarterly to monitor the levels of contaminants in the shallow water bearing zone

## Benefits

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Removal of contaminated on-site soils, abandoned drums, and surface impoundments has significantly reduced the potential for contamination to migrate from the site into the intermittent stream and off-site wetlands. Once the remedial action goals are achieved, the ground water will be suitable for use by a future resident.

## National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

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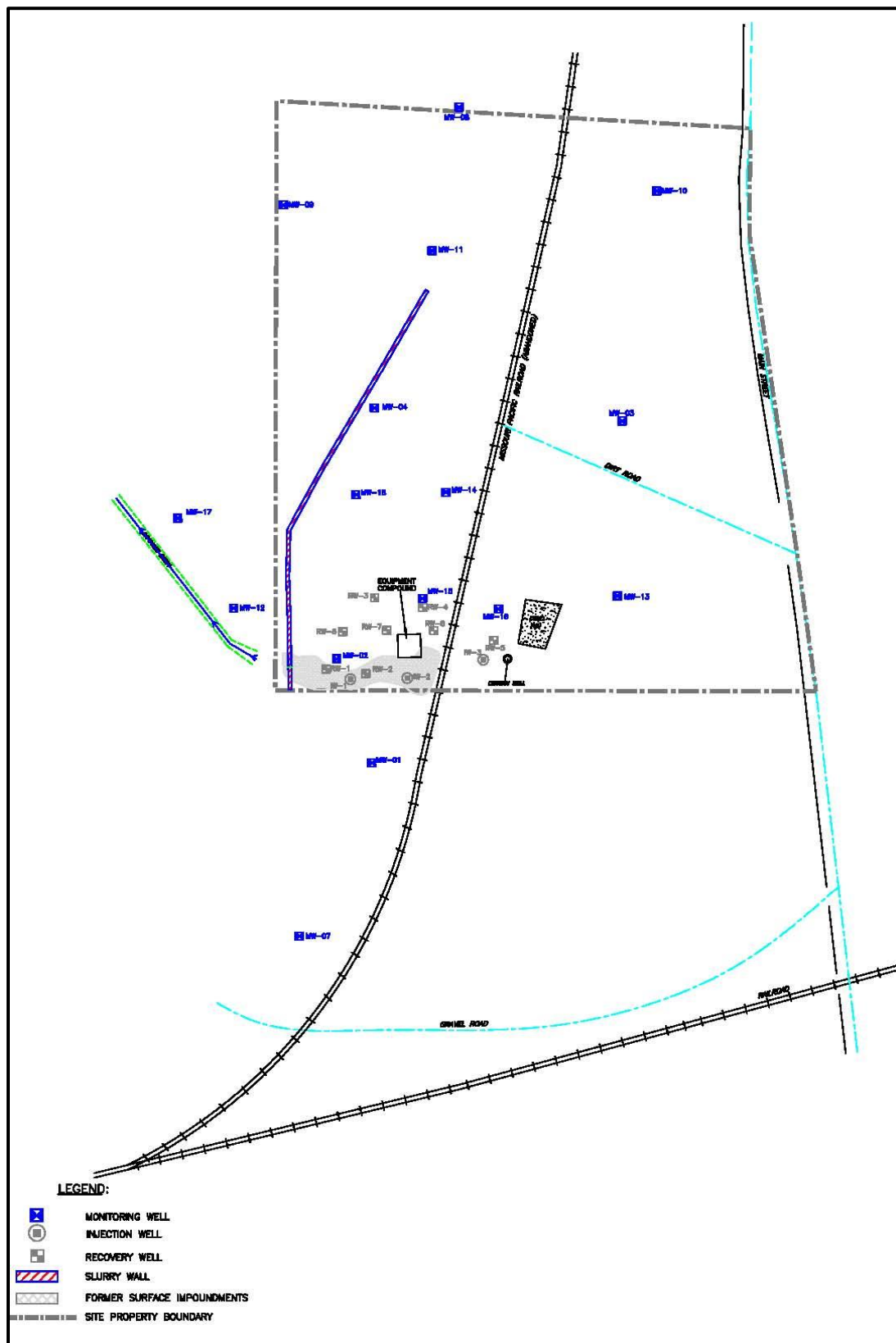
NPL Proposal Date: February 4, 2000  
NPL Final Date: May 11, 2000

**Location:** The Ouachita Nevada Wood Treating site is located 1/4 mile north of Reader, Ouachita County, Arkansas.

**Population:** An estimated 6 people live within one half mile of the site. The population within a mile of the site is estimated at 33 people and an estimated 692 people live within 4 miles of the site.

**Setting:** The site consists of a former wood treating facility approximately 5 acres in size. Rural woodlands, wetlands, and an intermittent stream are found to the west and north of the facility. Sparse residential areas are located north and south of the facility. Drainage from the site flows into an unnamed intermittent tributary located west of the site. The intermittent tributary drains into Caney Creek approximately 1 mile northwest of the site. Caney Creek merges with the Little Missouri River approximately 1/2 mile downstream. The Little Missouri River flows approximately 12 miles before joining the Ouachita River. The wetlands, the Little Missouri River, and the Ouachita River are all used for recreational fishing.

## Site Map



## Wastes and Volumes

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The EPA began a removal action on April 3, 2000, to address releases from surface impoundments and soil contaminated with pentachlorophenol (PCP) and arsenic. EPA also took measures to pump and treat PCP-contaminated water from an on-site well, and to remove debris and scrap metal from the site. Residual sludge and waste material was removed from the aboveground storage tanks and waste material was removed from the surface impoundments. Wastes from the storage tanks and surface impoundments were permanently removed during excavation activities. Approximately 4,067 tons of excavated contaminated soil was classified as hazardous solid waste and disposed of off site for incineration. Approximately 18,000 gallons of water from the on-site well was pumped into a mobile storage unit and treated through a sand and carbon filtration unit. A steel cap was then placed on top of the on-site well; the cap was bolted to the well casing and locked to prevent entry. Wood debris from a wooden office building was removed and disposed of offsite as non-hazardous material. Metal debris and scrap metal were removed from the site and recycled.

## Health Considerations

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The Remedial Investigation evaluated risks to human health and the environment. Results from the risk assessment identified a future risk to a resident at the site if they were exposed to ground water. There were no unacceptable risks to a trespasser or industrial worker. Also, there were no unacceptable ecological risks at the site.

## Record of Decision (ROD)

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| EPA signed the Record of Decision on September 28, 2005 |
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This ROD sets forth the selected remedy for the Site, which involves actions to address PCP contamination in ground water. The major components of the remedy are:

- **Recovery and Disposal of Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL)**  
Wells will be installed within the source area for the recovery of LNAPL. The recovered LNAPL will require off-site disposal. Any contaminated ground water recovered during the LNAPL recovery process will require on-site treatment or off-site disposal.
- **In-Situ Enhanced Bioremediation**  
Once LNAPL recovery operations stop, new or existing wells will be used for injection of bionutrients. Batch treatments of nutrient-containing amendment will be injected into the plume to enhance the naturally occurring biodegradation of pentachlorophenol.
- **Installation of a Slurry Wall**  
A slurry wall will be installed along the western property boundary to prevent contaminant flow and dispersion to off-site areas to the west of the site. The wall would begin at the southwestern corner of the property and run northward along the property boundary. The exact length of the slurry wall will be determined in the remedial design.
- **Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)**  
MNA will include sampling of monitoring wells and evaluation of the ground water plume to monitor migration of the plume and ensure natural biodegradation processes are occurring. Wells will be selected during the design phase for quarterly monitoring to evaluate decay rates and demonstrate plume stability.

- **Placement of an Institutional Control**

In order to further protect human health and prevent future ground water use from the shallow aquifer on site, EPA will implement institutional controls (ICs) at the site. EPA will negotiate a Consent Decree with the current landowner that would include a restriction on the installation of wells for the purposes of withdrawing water from the shallow aquifer. Under the Consent Decree, EPA would require the landowner to execute and record an easement running with the land that would grant right of access for activities related to implementing this ROD. Also, a deed notification will be filed with the appropriate land records office. During the performance of routine ground water monitoring activities at the Site, a Site evaluation will be conducted to ensure that there is no use of the contaminated ground water.

## **Community Involvement**

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Proposed Plan: Issued July 18, 2005  
Public Meeting: August 9, 2005  
Technical Assistance Grant: No applications received

Information Repository: Ouachita County Courthouse  
145 Jefferson SW  
Camden, AR 71701  
870-837-2230

## **Site Contacts**

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| EPA Regional Public Liaison:  | Donn Walters    | 214-665-6483 |
| ADEQ Contact:                 | Grant Kneebone  | 501-682-0789 |

EPA Superfund Region 6 Toll Free Number: 1-800-533-3508